LET'S MAKE A DEAL

SIDNEY CROSBY AND OTHER NHL STARS SAY THEY'RE WILLING TO TAKE LESS IN THEIR FIRST CBA OFFER TO THE LEAGUE PAGE 14

FRIDAY'S DRAW
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LONDON metro®
Wednesday, August 15, 2012
News worth sharing.
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Chris Chew, a London Humane Society agent, crouches beside a seven-foot boa constrictor taken from a northeast London home. In total, London police found 11 snakes — five of them dead and six in poor condition — on Monday.
JOHN MATISZ/METRO

No circus for impounded pythons

Animal-abuse case. LHS says there are more exotic snakes living in Ontario than people realize

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Mark Rose knew something was off on Monday when he caught a whiff of a distinct "rotten farm" odour coming from his next-door neighbour's home.

When he learned another resident in London's Ed Blake Park district had called to report the considerable stink that afternoon, Rose began worrying about his neighbour's well-being.

The London Police Service raided the bungalow that evening, turning up 11 exotic snakes, among them illegal boa constrictors and pythons.

"We knew he had reptiles," Rose said of neighbour Craig Moncrieff, "but there was no indication there was such a large number of snakes."

Moncrieff, 34, of London, is charged with causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and could face more charges for owning such large snakes.

The London Humane Society, called in by police to pick up the reptiles on Tuesday morning, seized five dead snakes. Six others, in poor health but expected to live, are being cared for at the humane society headquarters.

"Unprecedented is an excellent word to use here," LHS executive director Judy Foster said. "Hopefully this is a unique case, but we do know that exotics are living in Ontario. I believe there are more than the average person thinks."

LHS agent Chris Chew said the living snakes had been moving around among the dead ones, which were in various stages of decomposition.

"The veterinarian felt all of the ones living were either underweight or dehydrated," Chew said, adding some of the snakes died months ago.

Rose described Moncrieff as a single, unemployed, friendly man with a tendency to keep to himself.

Records show Moncrieff pleaded guilty to animal cruelty in April 2001, for failing to provide medical care to a dog. He was barred from owning an animal for two years.

Lifetime prohibitions on animal ownership were unenforceable in 2001. Nowadays, however, humane societies and federal and provincial governments have the power to hand down lifelong bans.

WITH FILES FROM AM980/AM980.CA

Follow John Matisz on Twitter @Metro_JMatisz

Bylaw

Keeping things in scale

A city bylaw says it's illegal for London residents to own snakes longer than two feet.

London Humane Society agent Chris Chew says "most, if not all" of the snakes found on Monday are over the size limit.

The LHS has contacted animal control to investigate whether Craig Moncrieff should face additional charges.

NEWS 1

Teachers 'disappointed' in stalled contract talks

Differing viewpoints. Catholic school board trustees need to sign off on provincial contract terms and put the issue to rest, some teachers say

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Dalton McGuinty
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

As a contract dispute rages, at least some teachers with ties to the London District Catholic School Board are urging trustees to agree to a deal with the province and move on.

Gino Nicodemo, who retired in June after more than 25 years as an English teacher, called the board's resistance "incomprehensible."

"The fact is, all the heavy lifting has already been done for the school board, but yet they've come up with excuses to turn it down," said Nicodemo, who taught at London's Regina Mundi Catholic School. "It has to do with power, I think.

"If they agree to the contract, they've lost power.... They're kind of acknowledging the fact that the province has greater authority over their circumstances than they do."

Most teachers are ready to get on with what they do best — focusing on students, said Shelley Malone, first vice-president of the London District Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA).

"Teachers want to teach. They do not want to have any labour disharmony," she said. "They're very disappointed in the board.... They don't understand what the board is up to."

Phil Squire, chair of the London Catholic board, said claims that trustees are afraid of losing power over negotiations by accepting the provincial contract are off-base.

But, he acknowledged, maintaining local control over decisions that affect classrooms — and ultimately students — are at the heart of the dispute.

The deal OECTA struck with the government would require boards to choose from the most senior teachers available when hiring or filling long-term vacancies. Squire says that mandate means the "best" teachers may not be chosen.

But Nicodemo counters that argument, saying the hiring process isn't fair as is and is filled with nepotism.

The contract would also give individual teachers the option of refusing to administer district-wide proficiency tests, which Squire said are essential to gauging student and, to some degree, teacher performance.

"We think if we keep giving up management rights, we're going to have a government- and teacher-driven system," the board chair said. "Where's the public input? Where's the public participation through elected trustees?"

Follow Angela Mullins on Twitter @MetroAngela

Background

- The government inked a memorandum of understanding with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association on July 5, as the provincial association representing Catholic trustees was negotiating a deal with teachers.
- The government contract includes a two-year wage freeze for most union members.
- Local Catholic school boards still must accept the contract and, so far, only Toronto has. The London board voted last week to have a third party come in to help reach an agreement.
- The government, which is trying to cut its deficit, is pressuring other teachers' unions, including those representing public teachers, to accept the contract. Premier Dalton McGuinty has threatened legislation if boards and teachers don't sign new agreements by Sept. 1, the day after contracts for all teachers expire.

Committee supports extending Centennial Hall contract

A city council committee has thrown support behind a three-year extension of Donald Jones Management Services' contract to operate Centennial Hall.

The company has overseen operations at the 45-year-old, city-owned entertainment venue since the mid-1980s, doing what Mayor Joe Fontana described Tuesday as a "stellar" job.

Keeping Jones Management ensures maintaining the status quo for city coffers, Fontana said as the investment and economic prosperity committee OK'd the agreement. A recent study showed the city's $100,000 subsidy paid to the hall is the lowest of any other municipality nationwide.

Costs to cities that manage their own theatres and performance centres range from $385,000 in Guelph to $39 million in Ottawa. Several venues are smaller than London's.

Jones Management's existing contract expires Dec. 31. The extension will be considered by full council Aug. 28.

City administrators recommended the extension for a variety of reasons, including ongoing discussions about Centennial Hall's future, treasurer Martin Hayward said Tuesday.

Orchestra London, the hall's chief tenant, wants to build a new performing-arts centre by 2017.

Western University has put forward a proposal that would create a downtown campus at Reginald Cooper Square, which houses city hall, Centennial Hall and an apartment complex. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Centennial Hall (550 Wellington St.) is pictured Tuesday afternoon. A city committee has given preliminary approval to extending Donald Jones Management Services' contract to operate the performing-arts venue.
ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Also on Tuesday

- The investment and economic prosperity committee heard a London Health Sciences Foundation request for $35 million over five years in city funding.
- Committee members referred the request to administrators for consideration in a "prosperity plan" due this fall.

Mobile news

From fresh-faced youngsters to vocal virtuosos: Scan the code to see these kids transform into colourful characters at the Peking Opera summer camp.

Warning. Overcrowding at city jail could lead to more unrest, says union boss

The head of a union representing guards at a London jail says he's concerned a near-riot at the facility last month could occur again.

Ontario Public Service Employees Union president Smokey Thomas toured the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre Tuesday morning and says overcrowding at the jail needs to be addressed or things could once again "blow up in a heartbeat."

Long-simmering tensions at the facility boiled over starting July 27 as inmates flooded toilets, lit fires and bent iron doors before tactical squads quelled the unrest and a five-day lockdown was put in place. The jail was designed for 150 inmates but currently holds more than 400. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smokey Thomas OPSEU.ORG

Teen victim

Cops investigate sexual assault

London police are investigating a sexual assault that occurred in the area of Piccadilly Street near Colborne Street around 12 p.m. on Monday. The 14-year-old female victim was not injured in the incident.

Police are seeking the public's help for information relating to a male fitting the following description: White, approximately 40 years of age and five-foot-eight, with an overweight build and dark, receding hair pulled into a ponytail. METRO

Civil servants. Nearly all eligible OPS managers got bonuses in 2011: Documents

Almost all eligible managers in the Ontario Public Service received bonuses last year, despite assurances from the cash-strapped government that it's serious about freezing pay in the broader public sector.

The controversy over awarding bonuses when the province is awash in red ink was revived this week when the head of eHealth Ontario, Greg Reed, returned his hefty bonus after it was reported by The Canadian Press.

According to documents obtained by The Canadian Press, about 8,700 of 8,900 eligible civil servants received performance pay in 2011, costing the provincial treasury $35.6 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

98

Percentage of eligible Ontario Public Service managers who received bonuses last year, according to documents obtained by The Canadian Press.

Rob Ford

T.O. mayor admits to 'probably' reading, driving

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford admits he was "probably" reading at the wheel during a commute, but he says it didn't affect his driving. Photos on Twitter show him reading. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Csanad Szegedi

Hungarian anti-Semite finds he's Jewish himself

As a rising star in Hungary's far-right Jobbik Party, Csanad Szegedi was notorious for his incendiary comments on Jews: He accused them of "buying up" the country, railed about the "Jewishness" of the political elite and claimed Jews were desecrating national symbols.

Then came a revelation that knocked him off his perch as ultra-nationalist: Szegedi himself is a Jew.

Following weeks of rumours, Szegedi acknowledged that his grandparents on his mother's side were Jews, making him one, too. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California

Hearse driver dies on way to a funeral

Beverly Hills, Calif., police say a hearse driver who was found dead with a body in the vehicle likely died of natural causes while taking the casket to a funeral. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dorval

Two killed, others injured in Quebec collision

Two people were killed in a violent collision that flipped a city bus onto its side and injured numerous other people Tuesday in Quebec.

The accident between the city bus and two cars occurred during rush hour, at around 6 p.m., at an intersection in an industrial park in the municipality of Dorval, near the Montreal airport.

Police said two people were declared dead on the scene — a woman passenger in a BMW, and someone who was ejected from the city bus. Two others were seriously injured; others were hurt.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russian sect eccentricity exaggerated?

Kazan. Questions raised over whether officials overstated how the sect lived

Russian authorities spoke of a creepy cult living in an "eight-level ant house" dug deep into the ground, where children were kept in unheated cells and starved of daylight.

A visit to the compound suggests a more ordinary reality.

A brief visit inside the compound, which provided shocking headlines around the world when police raided it and seized the children, revealed none of the elaborate underground design described by prosecutors.

Nor does a police video showing rooms inside.

The father of a cult member, who originally disapproved of his daughter joining the group, said he was able to visit freely. The portrayals raise questions about whether authorities have exaggerated the eccentricity, to show they are cracking down on Islamic groups. The spokeswoman for Kazan prosecutors did not answer repeated calls to her office on Monday.

Police stumbled upon the bizarre sect in early August as they investigated what they described as a terrorist attack that killed a top cleric in oil-rich Tatarstan, where the population is 60 per cent Muslim. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sect against state

Sect leaders are enraged over the seizure of the children and the police action against their holy project, and vowed to triumph. "Allah will punish you," Gumer Ganiyev of the sect yelled at police. "You will all die tomorrow."

- The fate of the sect's property remains unclear. Police, accompanied by social workers and construction experts, conducted a third search last week to further assess the living conditions.

Proposed law comes back to bite Ryan

Republican U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney, front, and vice-presidential running mate Paul Ryan greet supporters in Wisconsin. Romney's eldest son, Tagg, and his wife announced the birth of twin boys in May with the help of in-vitro fertilization and a surrogate mother. But that's a process that would be illegal under a proposed law Ryan once advocated, the Sanctity of Human Life Act. Co-sponsored by Ryan, it would have enshrined the notion that life begins at fertilization, essentially criminalizing in-vitro fertilization.

MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palo Alto. Computers snatched in burglary at Steve Jobs' residence

Several computers and personal items worth more than $60,000 US were stolen from the seven-bedroom northern California home of the late Steve Jobs.

Cops insist it was a run-of-the-mill burglary. Kariem McFarlin, 35, has been arrested. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas. Gunman in deadly shootout was killed by responding cops

The gunman in a deadly shootout near Texas A&M University was fatally wounded by officers who responded to reports of gunfire. College Station police Chief Jeff Capps said Thomas Alton Caffall had guns in his home. A policeman and bystander were also killed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.82¢ (+0.06¢)

TSX 11,853.61 (+15.28)

OIL $93.43 US (+70¢)

GOLD $1,602.40 US (-$10.20)

Natural gas: $2.834 US (+10.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,172.14 (+2.71)

Plummeting stock

Groupon decline unprecedented

Groupon's stock is 27 per cent cheaper Tuesday, but that doesn't make it a bargain. Its stock fell as analysts slashed targets and ratings on the online deals company after it reported its first-ever quarter-to-quarter decline in gross billings, a measure of how much money Groupon collects from customers.

Groupon blamed the weak economy in Europe and unfavourable currency-exchange rates, but analysts pointed to online deals fatigue. Groupon Inc. pioneered the online daily deals market, which offers subscribers deep discounts on everything from spa sessions to tequila tastings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social media

Google+ switches to snappy addresses

Social-media junkies, vain? Of course not.

But if you're a devoted Facebook or LinkedIn user, chances are you have a so-called "vanity URL," or a short, custom web address for your profile.

Now, Google+ is also appealing to users' narcissism, by switching its unwieldy addresses for snappier ones.

The URLs will first be offered to certain verified users — mostly brands and celebrities — before being rolled out to the public.

The addresses make pages easier to find and more memorable. Previously, Google+ pages were simply assigned a random string of numbers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CAW wants to share in automakers' rising profits

Union. Canadian Auto Workers meets with top North American automakers to discuss new labour contracts

The Canadian Auto Workers said it doesn't expect to regain all of the concessions it made when automakers were struggling during the recession, but it wants to share in the profits now that the industry has rebounded.

"We aren't going in there demanding everything back from 2009," CAW national president Ken Lewenza said Tuesday as the union kicked off contract negotiations with the three big North American automakers.

"We're just saying that we have to find a way to share in the successes that our members have built over many years."

The union met with General Motors Canada on Tuesday morning and with Chrysler Canada in the afternoon. It will meet with Ford Canada on Wednesday. Contracts for workers at all three companies expire Sept. 17. The union made a number of concessions, including to wages, vacation time and cost-of-living payments, to help the ailing automakers during the 2008-09 recession.

Sacrifices

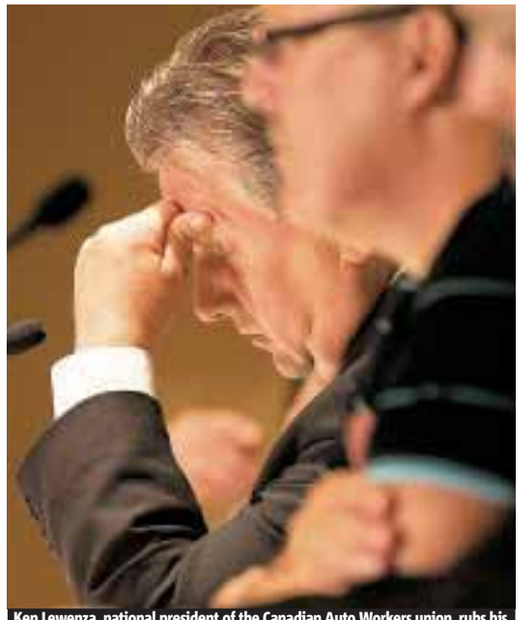
"The companies have learned to make money even at low volumes. Workers' sacrifices have been a big part of that success."
Ken Lewenza, CAW national president

Lewenza says the CAW is hoping to make some progress now that the companies are making a profit.

But a Chrysler Canada spokesman warned Tuesday that although the company has returned to profitability, it is not out of the woods.

"Those gains have been modest and it is critical that we not return to an uncompetitive situation," said Todd Bested, Chrysler Canada's director of labour relations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ken Lewenza, national president of the Canadian Auto Workers union, rubs his forehead as he takes questions from the media following a meeting to discuss contracts with General Motors in Toronto on Tuesday. It was the first of a series of meetings with the big three automakers. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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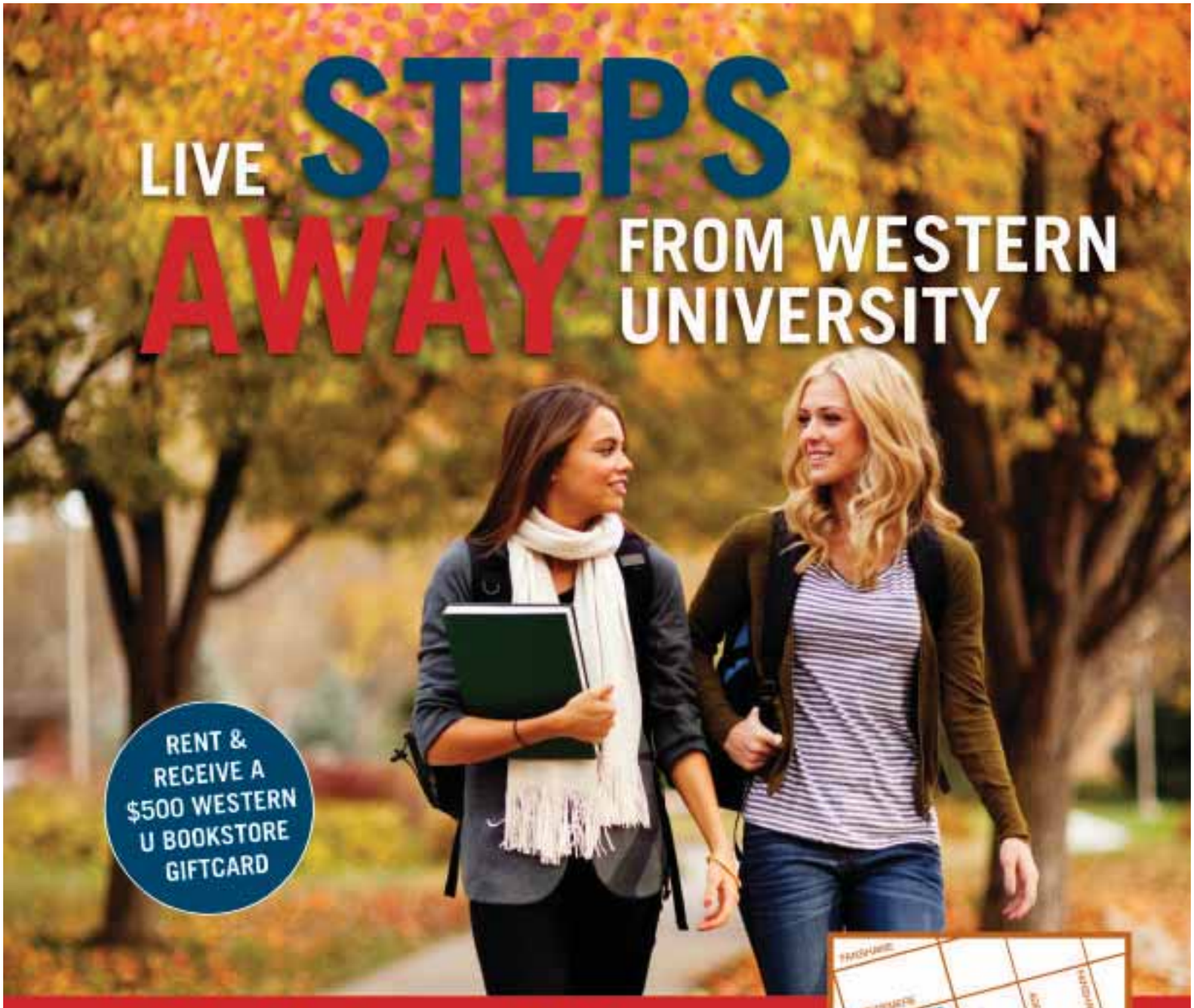

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GLEEFULLY BAD GIRL TO THE END

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

If Hugh Hefner is the male, er, face of the sexual revolution, Helen Gurley Brown was its female frontispiece.

I mean, anyone who has breast implants at 73 has earned pride of place in the Sexual Revolution Hall of Fame, just across the aisle from Barry White and two statues down from Madonna (oh wait, Madonna's membership is still pending).

Sadly, while Hefner keeps on ticking like a randy old grandfather clock, Gurley Brown's best-before date has finally expired (exhausted itself?) at the ripe old age of 90.

Obviously, there's something about an active sex life.

For those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, gather round. Helen Gurley Brown single-handedly brought 50 per cent of the human population into the modern era by publishing Sex and the Single Girl in 1962. She spent the rest of her considerable life updating the sexual revolution on a monthly basis as the editor of Cosmopolitan, the magazine that promises 30 Things to Do to a Naked Man.

The men of the world should be grateful, at least. Everywhere else, a naked man is usually arrested.

For women, reviews have been mixed. Gurley Brown may not have been the first to acknowledge in public that women have sex when they're not married, but she was certainly the first to promote it gleefully. Feminists saw her as a male-chauvinist plot, counselling women to adopt a kind of strategic subservience to get what they want — especially if what they want are multiple orgasms.

Legacy

"Lots of people did not know how to pronounce 'orgasm' before it (Cosmo) was launched."
One Cosmo editor, quoted in the Guardian

Not that there's anything wrong with that. "Lots of people did not know how to pronounce 'orgasm' before it (Cosmo) was launched," said one Cosmo editor, quoted in the Guardian.

Gurley Brown's real dirty little secret was that her dirty little secret was hard work. Nobody got into the office earlier or left later as she worked her way up from "mouseburger" from Arkansas, super-secretary in L.A., copywriter extraordinaire in L.A. and New York, and then to Cosmo, where she reigned supreme from 1965 until she stepped down (sort of) in 1997.

Along the way she attracted millions of readers looking for 75 ways to pleasure a man or look at Burt Reynolds naked. I have to admit, I looked at Reynolds naked, but was disappointed because he wasn't really naked — he didn't take off his toupée.

Gurley Brown didn't have any children; she considered them competitors for attention. But she did spawn a generation of magazine editors, male as well as female, who work harder than anyone else to enumerate experience (37 Ways to Pound Sand!) on the covers of their magazines.

Finally, she left the best motto: "Good girls go to heaven, bad girls go everywhere."

Wherever she's gone, I'll bet it's hot.

Long before Carrie Bradshaw was drinking cosmos, Helen Gurley Brown, pictured, defined sex and the single girl as editor of Cosmo. GEORGE DE SOTA/NEWSMAKERS

Cold cuts to sink your body into

GERO BRELOER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamming it up

'Deli meats' tickle funny bone

Vegetarian Silvia Wald puts a cloth ham on the sales counter of her shop Aufschnitt (German for cold cuts) in Berlin on Tuesday. Wald, an engineer in clothing technology, started in 2009 to design meat products from cotton stretch velvet, Lycra, wool or micro fibre with a realistic look.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Showcase of plush treats

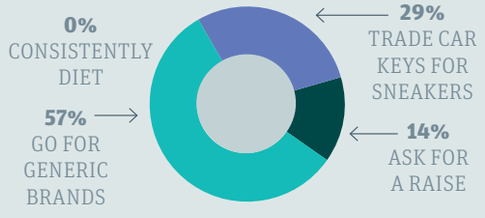
Aufschnitt's products include:

- Links of sausage to wrap around your neck like a scarf.
- A Serrano ham bean-bag chair complete with shapely hoof.
- A sausage-ring baby rattle.
- Sausage rings that double as neck-relaxation pillows.
- And the merchant's scales make a cosy kid's chair.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How are you planning to handle expected higher food costs?



Twitter

@Hon3yBee
#Starbucks in London Ont !! I applied for barista, I wish to work for you, im an awesome person, id be great! Contact me! #ldnont

@eShepperd
Grey, rainy skies in #ldnont. It's a two-coffee morning.

@xxemo_lyricxx
The lights just flickered... Will I come home later to a power outage? #oldsouthprobs #ldnont

@krody
love waking up from a dead sleep from the loudest crash of thunder ever #ldnont

@BeyondtheOnions
It's officially toe-stubbing day. Stubbed my toe twice this morning so it must be...come on #ldnont - get out the toes and start stubbing!

@kellyziegner
Meeting newcomers to Canada makes me pause & appreciate how lucky we are in #LDNont

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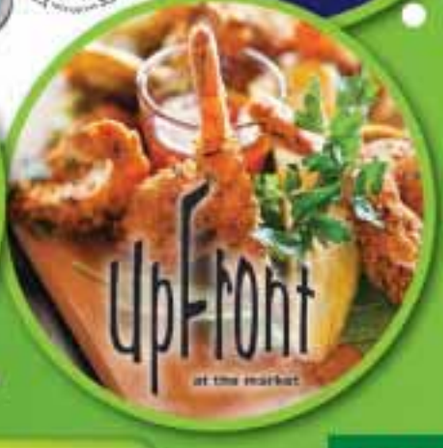

UpFront

at the market

Check out these items and more!

Bidding Starts September 7

metro

Whitney Houston stars in Sparkle in another movie that features a posthumous performance. HANDOUT

After their light fades out

Posthumous praise. Houston's role in Sparkle isn't the only star to have a movie come out after their sudden death

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Sparkle actress Tika Sumpter says the movie "adds another diamond" to the legend of Whitney Houston. The film, a remake of a 1976 picture of the same name, stars the late singer in her final role.

The movie, in which she plays the single mother of a musical prodigy, was being heralded as her comeback, but instead is her swansong. She passed away in February, the result of an accidental drowning in the bathtub of her Beverly Hilton hotel room.

Houston's co-star Jordan Sparks said, "She lights up the screen, and you can just tell she's so full of joy to be doing this."

Houston is not the first performer to earn posthumous praise for a film role. In 2008 Heath Ledger won an Academy Award for his performance as the Joker in The Dark Knight, released after his January, 2008 death from accidental prescription drug overdose.

River Phoenix, another actor cut down at the height of his popularity, didn't live to see his final completed film Silent Tongue, a movie described as "a haunting tale of love, death and shame in the Old West." Dark Blood, the film Phoenix was just 11 days away from finishing when he overdosed in front of the Viper Room in Los Angeles, was thought lost to time, but has recently been resurrected and will debut in September at the Netherlands Film Festival.

Old Hollywood also saw its share of tragic ends and last performances.

The 1930s superstar Jean Harlow died of renal failure while filming Saratoga. Instead of replacing her, MGM used three doubles (one for close-ups, another for long shots and a third for dubbing the actress's lines) and rejigged the story. The salvaged movie became MGM's biggest hit of 1937.

Gary Cooper's last film, The Naked Edge, released a month after his death wasn't as well received.

Despite Cooper's best efforts — his cancer required that he take frequent oxygen breaks — the thriller was a flop.

THIS COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM WED., AUG. 15 TO THURS., AUG. 16. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

London

Rainbow Cinemas London
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Wellington 8 Cinemas
983 Wellington Rd. S
(G) Wed-Thu 1-3:30-7:10-9:45

SilverCity London
1680 Richmond St
(G) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:40-4:15-7-9:35

Movie review

Odd Life is oddly unbalanced

The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Director. Peter Hedges,

Genre. Drama

The Odd Life of Timothy Green is a little fantasy about a peculiar kid who literally climbs out of the garden one night after a married couple write out the characteristics they seek in a son. It would be a promising premise for a children's book but as a film, this comic-drama falls like the inexplicable leaves shedding from the mysterious kid's ankles. With deliberate sincerity, the movie deals with mature themes of death and identity but there isn't much fun to balance it out.

STEVE GOW

Ramsay aims to rehab hell hotels

New TV show. Celebrity chef trying to raise the standard of the hospitality industry with his blunt brand of business strategies

AMBER RAY
Metro World News

Kitchen Nightmares host Gordon Ramsay's new renovation reality show will make you think twice about staying at a hotel ever again.

In Hotel Hell, the celebrity chef steps out of the kitchen and into some bed-and-breakfasts and resorts in desperate need of overhaul.

The problems range from an unwillingness to change business strategies during a slow economy to — gross-out alert — finding a duvet cover that hadn't been cleaned for 18 months.

"It's so obvious what's wrong," Ramsay says of the hotels he visits in the new Fox series, which is now airing.

"I don't think common sense becomes that common in those scenarios. That's the frustrating part."

Ramsay swears he didn't travel to these hotels "to create havoc" — though he uses his trademark bluntness to point out flaws, which rubs some hotel owners the wrong way.

"The shock for me ... was the general hygiene," Ramsay says. "I'm talking about some very expensive hotels."

Gordon Ramsay brings his brand of blunt advice to hotels everywhere. HANDOUT

On the Web

Nobel laureates including Desmond Tutu call for NBC to halt Stars Earn Stripes reality show

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Mel Gibson

'That's life' — Gibson not expecting forgiveness

While many wonder if Hollywood will forgive Mel Gibson for his outbursts over the last few years, the actor himself isn't holding his breath.

"I don't even think they're vindictive. I don't think they think there's reason to forgive," he tells ComingSoon.Net. "It is kind of ridiculous. It's kind of hard to pinpoint exactly what needs to be forgiven, and I don't consider that anything does because I didn't hurt anyone."

Others may beg to differ, including ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva and writer Joe Eszterhas, who taped one of Gibson's tirades after their work on a screenplay fell apart.

"That's life," Gibson says of the incident. "It ain't easy and it's not fair. You've just got to slip the old water off the back and move on."

LOST

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The Word

Aniston expands her wedding guest list

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Although he's been engaged to Jennifer Aniston for less than a week, Justin Theroux is already proving to be quite the family man. After years of estrangement, he's convinced Aniston to add her mother, Nancy Dow, to the wedding guest list. "Justin comes from a tight-knit family, who he is very close to. He preaches family values to Jennifer and he said to her he'd love a private, low-key ceremony with all their family members present," a source tells RadarOnline. Aniston didn't invite Dow to her wedding to Brad Pitt in 2000 — which was only one year after Dow released an unwelcome book about her daughter — but the actress has since softened her stance.

"She agreed, said she'd forgiven her mom for her past discrepancies and that Nancy should be a guest at her second wedding," the source tells Radar. Is it a nice gesture? We guess. But this is like getting left out of the beach trip, then invited to the sandy drive home.

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Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

Split-couple not on highest paid celeb list

While the world waits for word on the status of Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart's relationship after Stewart's admission of cheating on Pattinson with director Rupert Sanders, the folks at Forbes magazine seem to have drawn their own conclusions. When the magazine released its Highest Paid Celebrity Couples list last week, it left off Pattinson and Stewart, who ranked fifth last year.

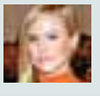
"Stewart and Pattinson were, in fact, left off the list because they are broken up," a magazine rep tells the Huffington Post.

The Spice Girls

Posh Spice skips out on Olympic after-party

After their reunion on stage at the Olympics closing ceremony, the Spice Girls decided to keep the get-together going — minus one member — as they hit up George Michael's after-party, according to Hollyscoop. "They really enjoyed all being back together," a source says, noting that Victoria Beckham decided to skip out on the revelry. "She did not go back out and so it was just the other four girls. Everyone was a little disappointed that she did not come out to celebrate after."

Twitter


@IMKristenBell
Dear Parents, when on an airplane, do not give your erratic children toys that make tons of noise. Sincerely, Common Sense

@daxshepard1
Watching a doc about Costco. Its a collision of my two favorite things: documentaries and Costco.

@russellcrowe
had an awning attached to mini RV, gym gear under cover,say "had" because at 6am it gave in to the wind, it was a wild night in Reynisfjara

@SarahKSilverman
I slipped, banana-peel style, while running to get the phone. Or as the beaten say, I FELL DOWN

5 underwater spots in Mexico

Whether you're a longtime divemaster or just dipping your fins in to scuba, Mexico's muy bonita underwater landscapes beckon. Miles of reef chains, cenotes (natural sinkholes used as gateways to expansive subterranean river systems) as well as some of the best drift diving in the Western Hemisphere will have you itching to get wet.

MIKE DOJC
travel@metronews.ca

Don't be afraid of the bats! ISTOCK

1 Calvera, Temple of Doom

According to local lore, shipwrecked Spanish conquistadors met their watery graves here as human sacrifices to the rain god Chac. While it's not as booby-trapped as the one in the Indiana Jones film, it is as unsettling from the outset with ominously positioned cutouts in the roof of the cave resembling eye sockets. Then there's the ten-foot plunge into the mouth of the calvera (Spanish for skull) before hitting water. Once inside the underwater chamber overhead, a layer of fruit bats — also known as megabats will have your Spidey-sense tingling. Open water scuba diver certification is a must to explore the depths of this murky cavern.

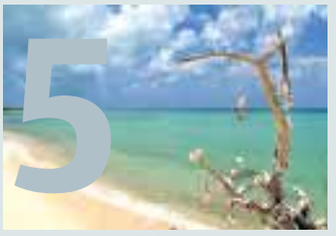
Are you ready to swim with sharks? ISTOCK

2 Gordo Banks

If you're an experienced advanced diver and can handle the deep stuff (the shallowest part of this seamount lies under 130 feet of water), it's well worth the 13-kilometre boat ride from the coast of San Jose del Cabo. While the underwater mountain's lunar-like landscape is worth the trip alone, the highlight reel of this dive for many intrepid divers will be studying schooling hammerhead sharks, making eyes at manta rays and miming "en garde" at a passing swordfish. Live versions of familiar seafood plate in Tuna and snappers will also likely find their way into the frame of many of your underwater photographs.

3 Isla Mujeres

A 13-kilometre swim from the beaches of Cancun, the Island of Women, a 650-metre wide sliver of an island, isn't just for hormonal college kids who took the municipality's names a tad too literally. This Isla offers a wide variety of dive sites to satisfy the full spectrum of diving tastes. Beginners can play a Seussical game of one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish while ogling the vibrant sea life at Manchones Reef. Also, wreck divers exploring the 100-foot deep Ultrafreeze are an additional bonus. The cargo ship's iron and metal haul is a magnet for baitfish and so the bigger guys on the fish food chain including dolphins and barracudas often feed here. Meanwhile, art lovers can take in the Cancun Underwater Museum off the island's western coast. Eco-sculptor Jason de Caires Taylor's stunning 450-piece underwater statue garden is a synergy of art and conservation. The statues are made of pH-neutral cement to promote the growth of coral reef.



Dive sites abound off of Cozumel. ISTOCK

5 Paradise Reef

If you're transitioning from snorkeling to scuba this shallow reef 200 yards from Cozumel's western coast is a great place to earn your neutral buoyancy cred. While envious shore snorkellers spy the coral from a distance, you'll be able to get up close and personal with the colourful plankton catchers. Be sure to keep a lookout for spotted moray eels and sea horses. If you're not afraid to swim in the dark, Paradise Reef is a very popular night dive spot. Dive sites abound along the Mesoamerican barrier reef system which extends beyond Mexico's Caribbean coast into Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. It's the second largest in the world, behind Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Catch the views above water, too. LISA ANDRES/FLICKR

4 Sand Falls

Off the shores of San Lucas near Anega Rock, the sand cascades over submerged cliffs like an underwater waterfall. Suitable for intermediate divers but still rewarding to even seasoned veteran underwater explorers, the sand falls start at a depth of 90 feet, so your bottom time will be limited.

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On the web

VisitBritain hopes for post-Olympics boost from Spice Girls, Damien Hirst

Mediterranean goes fruity with watermelon-topped Greek pita

Not only are these Greek Pita Flatbreads easy to prepare, but they are also healthy and satisfying.

In this recipe, watermelon replaces traditional toppings, providing a unique, refreshing taste.

Remember, the fruit is 90 per cent water, making this dish very juicy.

These pitas are most ideal for a quick afternoon snack or to serve tapas-style at a summer gathering in your backyard.

1. Spread 15 ml (1 tbsp) tzatziki on each of the four whole-wheat pitas.

2. Dividing all of the ingredients, top each pita evenly with cooked and sliced chicken breast, chopped watermelon, chopped cucumber, sliced red onion, crumbled feta cheese, pitted olives and cracked black pepper.

3. Garnish the top of each pita with fresh oregano and a wedge of lemon. Serve them immediately.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ NATIONAL WATERMELON BOARD, WATERMELON.ORG

Ingredients

- 4 whole-wheat pitas (15-cm/6-inches in diameter)
- 60 ml (4 tbsp) prepared tzatziki sauce
- 2 chicken breasts (each 175 g/6 oz), cooked and sliced
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) chopped watermelon
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped English cucumber
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sliced red onion
- 60 ml (4 tbsp) crumbled feta cheese
- 12 kalamata olives, pitted
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) black pepper, cracked
- Fresh oregano leaves
- Lemon wedges

Greek Pita Flatbread

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Drink of the Week

Canadian take on Latin-American drink

- 1 muskmelon or 1 l (4 cups), strawberries or raspberries
- 375 to 500 ml (1 1/2 to 2 cups) cold water
- 30 to 45 ml (2 to 3 tbsp) lime juice
- 15 to 30 ml (1 to 2 tbsp) granulated sugar
- Melon cubes, for garnish

Peel and seed muskmelon. Cut into chunks and measure out 1 l (4 cups). Place in food processor and purée along with 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) water. Place sieve over bowl. Using back of ladle and pressing in circular motion, press fruit through. Stir in 30 ml (2 tbsp) of lime juice and 15 ml (1 tbsp) of sugar. Add more water if mixture is too thick (it should be thin). Add additional lime juice or sugar, if needed. Refrigerate and serve very cold. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WATERMELON.ORG

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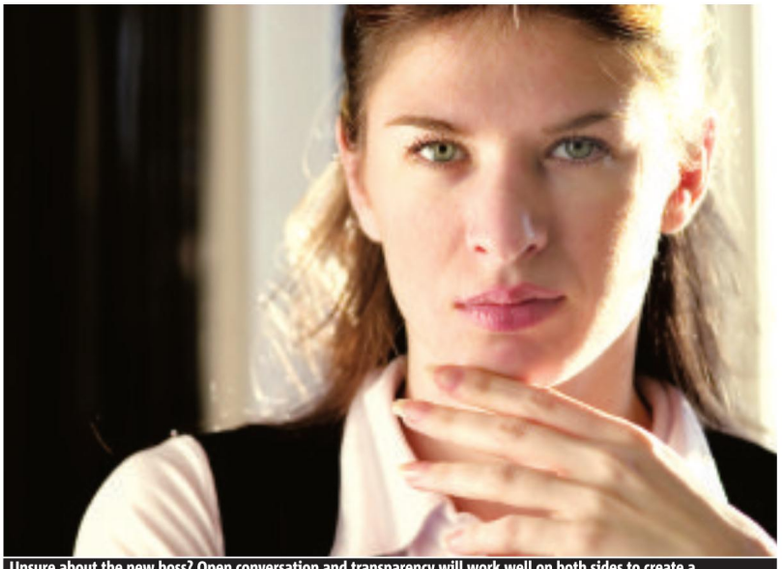
How to please the new big cheese

Welcome to the team! Make the very best of a boss switch

CHELSEA NEWTON
TalentEgg.ca



Unsure about the new boss? Open conversation and transparency will work well on both sides to create a strong working relationship. ISTOCK

Many students and recent grads look to their managers to set the tone for their current and future working relationships.

There is comfort in having worked for a manager for a long period of time — they understand the way you think, they have trust in your abilities, and they know the best way to coach and encourage you.

So how do you start all over again when you get a new manager? It's a scary time, but also a great opportunity to grow your skills and be challenged by a new perspective.

It's very important for student and entry-level employees to be open, build credibility, and want the new reporting line to work.

Here are some tips if you have a new manager.

Set things up

If possible, speak with your current manager about the transition they are completing with your new manager before it takes place. If you had an open relationship with your previous manager, you can help shape this discussion by highlighting key things that really work in your current relationship.

If your current manager is unable to have a transition with your new manager, take matters into your own hands.

Put together a "get to know me" email with your job description, org chart of your team (if applicable), previous performance review, and current targets and goals. Book a meeting with your new manager to get to know each other, walk through your current workload and review your goals.

Come in open minded

Your new manager is going to likely operate differently, so you should seek to understand their perspective. Don't make snap judgments.

Ask questions

This is tied to not making quick decisions or judgments. Ask questions to seek understanding about changes your new manager is making if they aren't giving you the rationale or background.

Deliver results

Delivering results with a great attitude is the best way to will build your personal credibility with a new manager.

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by taking every chance to lead a group whether at work, school or at extracurriculars and taking initiatives in these groups

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SPORTS 4

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, centre, speaks at a press conference on Tuesday in Toronto with some of the NHL's top stars. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Players willing to take less in new CBA

NHL. NHLPA's offer designed to produce 'a stable industry,' says union head Fehr

As it tabled its first offer in the latest round of NHL labour talks, the NHL Players' Association presented itself as a partner looking to help fix the league's problems — but not one willing to bear all the burden.

Flanked by superstars Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin, NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr said Tuesday the union's offer includes a smaller percentage of revenues for players and an expanded revenue-sharing program to help struggling teams.

"We do believe that the proposal the players made today, once implemented, can produce a stable industry ... that can give us a chance to move beyond the recurring labour strife that has plagued the NHL the last two decades," said Fehr.

By the union's calculations, the deal could see players give up as much as $465 million US in revenue if the league continues to grow at an average rate for the next three seasons.

The proposal includes delinking the salary cap from hockey-related revenue and setting a fixed rate — increasing by two per cent for the first year, four per cent for the second and six per cent for the third.

Afterwards, the players would hold an option to have the fourth year revert back to the current system, where they are entitled to receive 57 per cent of all revenues.

The NHLPA's belief is that owners would pocket more profits over the first three years of the deal, some of which could be dispersed to struggling franchises in an effort to strengthen the league overall.

"I like it a lot," Crosby said of the proposal. "I think, as Don said, it's addressing the issues that the league has. (We're) making sure as players that we do our part to help those (struggling) teams out, but also holding the teams accountable.

"At the end of the day, it's going to take both (sides) to do that."

The current CBA expires Sept. 15 and the NHL has said there will be a lockout if a new agreement isn't in place by then. THE CANADIAN PRESS

League's take

An NHL proposal tabled last month called for a significant decrease for players in revenue share by introducing new contract restrictions, including a five-year cap on deals.

- Commissioner Gary Bettman said he hopes to continue talks Wednesday.
- "It's clear to me that they didn't put (the counter-offer) together in an hour or two.... We're going to need to take a little bit of time to evaluate it," Bettman said.

MLB

Baseball enjoying attendance bump

The extra playoff spot in Major League Baseball this season has thickened the races, with several teams well within October's reach despite taking mediocre records into the stretch run.

That's having an impact in the seats — as has some good weather, signs of life in the economy and other factors.

The major-league average of 31,516 through Monday was up 4.3 per cent from 2011's final average of 30,229, according to STATS LLC. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Catcher Mathis earns extension in Toronto

The Toronto Blue Jays have signed catcher Jeff Mathis to a two-year, $3-million US contract extension, the club announced Tuesday.

The deal includes $1.5-million club option for the 2015 season.

Mathis, 29, is batting .215 with nine doubles, six home runs and 19 RBIs in 46 games with Toronto this year.

In 38 starts this season he has committed just one error in 305 total chances. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays catcher Jeff Mathis. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Mobile sports

It's only a friendly, but there's still important business to be taken care of in the Canadian men's soccer team's clash with Trinidad and Tobago on Wednesday. Coach Stephen Hart says he'll use the match to re-evaluate his lineup ahead of the next round of World Cup qualifying in September. Scan the code for the story.

Impressive Luck focused on improving

Colts No. 1 pick Andrew Luck looks over centre during Sunday's pre-season game against the St. Louis Rams in Indianapolis. JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES

Andrew Luck brought his revised to-do list to work on Tuesday.

Make better protection calls. Complete more passes. Get ready for his first NFL road test at Pittsburgh.

For now, it's short and simple.

"I think you just try and get better," Luck said Tuesday when the Colts returned to practice at Anderson University in Indiana. "Obviously, it was nice to go out and play a game and do some good things, do some bad things."

Bad things? Good luck finding those in Sunday's 38-3 victory over St. Louis.

All Luck did in his first NFL exhibition game was go 10 of 16 for 188 yards with two touchdowns and a 142.6 quarterback rating, leading the Colts to their most lopsided pre-season win since a 35-0 shellacking of Washington in 1966.

Since then, analysts and observers have spent countless hours heaping praise on the man who had been called the most NFL-ready quarterback since Peyton Manning entered the league in 1998. Luck lived up to the billing Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keeping perspective

Nobody understands better than Andrew Luck that it was only one game, and a pre-season game at that.

- Rams players said they didn't give Luck many complicated looks, though they blitzed on the first play, which Luck beat with a short screen pass that Donald Brown turned into a 63-yard TD pass.

Mike McCoy at peace with his nomadic lifestyle

MLB. Plenty of ups and downs in the career of Blue Jays utility player

The flight is always a round trip, and the suitcase is always packed the same: A hat, some shirts and jeans, a suit and a couple pairs of shoes.

Mike McCoy never knows how much he'll need, or for how long he'll be gone. The life of a utility player doesn't allow for much certainty.

He understands his role and knows the Toronto Blue Jays will use him as they see fit. One game on the field, the next two on the bench. Up with the Jays for a homestand, sent back down to the minors minutes after a game ends.

It's been a while now since McCoy allowed himself to think he might one day find a better place to sleep than the team hotel.

"I try to stay realistic. You always know someone's coming off the (disabled list), we have to make a move, so you kind of understand the ins and outs of the game," he says.

"I don't have, like, false hope. I understand that it's a business and I'm one of the guys that has options and I'm a utility player, so if they need to send me down then they're going to do that."

McCoy grew up a shortstop, but figured out he would never make it to the majors without learning some new tricks.

The 2011 season gave him hope for a regular gig. He was called up from triple-A Las Vegas six times, sometimes for just three days. The up-and-down life meant he had to get used to the constant jet lag, and spending time away from his wife and twin sons who reside in San Diego.

"I was up and down a lot, so it was a little more living out of a suitcase. But this year I've settled in a little more," says McCoy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jack of nearly all trades

The 31-year-old McCoy is one of the Jays' most valuable players.

- His career batting average is a paltry .199.
- But what he lacks at the plate is made up for in an ability to play virtually every position.
- McCoy has played everywhere professionally except catcher and first base.

Quoted

"I was a 34th-round pick. I felt like I beat the odds and was able to make it to the big leagues, and hopefully I can have a long big-league career in the next five, six, seven years."

Mike McCoy, Blue Jays utility player , has carved out a niche in Toronto's lineup since being claimed off waivers in the 2009 off-season.

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FTB defeats LONDON LEAFERS Game 1 3 - 2 Game 2 2 - 5 Game 3 2 - 0	FUGAZI defeats CANADS Game 1 3 - 2 Game 2 1 - 0
	ACE HOLES defeats BALLWACKERS Game 1 2 - 1 Game 2 1 - 0
	WOLFPACK defeats MISFITS Game 1 5 - 3 Game 2 5 - 3

YOUTH STARS OF THE WEEK
1. BEN ANDERSON - EAGLES — 3 GOALS, 2 ASSISTS
2. ROBIE MAHEU - HAWKS — 3 GOALS, 2 ASSISTS
3. TYLER BROSS - TOROS — 3 GOALS, 1 ASSIST

MEN'S STARS OF THE WEEK
1. CASEY CORNELL - FTB — GREAT GOALTENDING
2. MATT VANDERSPANK - OUT OF GAS — 2 GOALS, 1 ASSIST
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DRIVE 5

Crosstrek: As real as it gets

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A more macho look

The right look is critical for any sport ute-style vehicle and Subaru has provided the Crosstrek with its own distinctive nosepiece, front and rear bumpers, roof rails and rear spoiler.

In addition, extra cladding for the wheel arches and rocker panel has been installed.

Ground clearance

The slightly bigger front brake rotors add stopping power and a hiked-up suspension provides 22 centimetres of ground clearance, which is about eight more than the Impreza. That's just shy of the competing Jeep Patriot's 23-centimetre stance and should be plenty for straddling rock-strewn terrain and fording shallow streams.

2013 Subaru XV Crosstrek

- **Type.** Four-door, all-wheel-drive compact hatchback.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC horizontally opposed four-cylinder (150).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 7.5/5.5.
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $29,000 (est.).

The horizontally opposed engine layout lowers the centre of gravity and provides all kinds of underhood room.

Engine

The Crosstrek's 148-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine comes straight from the Impreza. That's significantly less oomph than the pre-2012 170-horsepower Impreza, but the offset is 7.5-l/100 km city and 5.5 l/100 km highway ratings that crush the old "Imp's" 10.4/7.7 numbers.

Review. It's the right Subaru for the times

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Is this Subaru for real, or is the new XV Crosstrek arriving this fall just faking it?

If another automaker attempted to elevate one of its small wagons to the status of "off-roader," it would risk becoming an industry laughing stock.

But Subaru is different. It always has been. And just when you think the Japan-based company has settled down and become a conservative member of the community, it ratchets up the funkiness and creates this bold and brash offshoot of its Impreza wagon.

You just gotta love it.

In developing the niche-oriented Crosstrek, the Impreza wagon was an ideal starting point.

Subaru completely reinvented its popular entry-level model for the 2012 model year, making it larger, better looking and significantly more fuel-efficient (albeit less powerful) than before. And with its standard four-wheel-drive, the Impreza has the right stuff to be converted into a pseudo Rubicon Trail-conquering hero.

The reality, however, is that the Crosstrek is best suited for rough road and weather conditions plus limited off-trail adventuring.

Anyone familiar with Volvo's XC70 wagon will think of this Subie as a scaled-down and less expensive copycat as well as sharing kinship with the current Subaru Outback wagon.

Adding the XV Crosstrek to a growing lineup that now also includes the BRZ sports coupe gives Subaru a wider cross-section of vehicles.

It's by no means a Jeep or Land Rover-style rock-crawler, but for more typical rugged outdoor activities, the XV Crosstrek is about as real as it gets.

The interior is basically a carbon copy of the standard Impreza interior.

More ground clearance, custom-look wheels and rounded rear make quite the visual statement.

By comparison

1 Volvo XC70 AWD
Base price: $45,000

2 Jeep Patriot 4x4
Base price: $20,000

3 Nissan Xterra 4x4
Base price: $35,500

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

First-time new-vehicle buyers aren't so young

Talking about the old folks. You can sell a whippersnapper's car to an older person, but not the other way around

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

In a recent study, with a sample size of one (me), the findings are that 50 might be the new 30, but only when you consider a very small and select group of body parts. All other body parts are very adamant about being 50 or better.

In another study, this time by the automotive research arm of Maritz Canada, and with a much larger sample size, the findings are that 50, or more precisely, 50.8, is the average age of new-vehicle buyers in this country. With such a large post-war baby boom in Canada, it shouldn't be a surprise that most buyers are 50-something, but it still seems surprising, or at least surprising-ish.

Now consider this: The average age of first-time buyers is 38!

"This is not to say the 20-24 age group is not buying cars, just that they aren't buying them in numbers that people may think," says Chris Travel of Maritz Canada. "The action is with older customers, not only in sheer numbers, but also in their ability to pay for vehicles."

Money is obviously a thing that can keep a young buck separated from a $196,400 Porsche 911 Turbo S. One thing young people certainly have lots of is "no money."

John Vernile is vice president of marketing at Hyundai Auto Canada. He notes that Hyundai's average buyer age hovers around 50, even when the vehicles are targeted to young people. For example, the medium age of Accent buyers is dead on 50, while the medium age of Elantra buyers is 53. Again, this is not to say that young people don't buy them, they do, just that older folk buy more.

According to Maritz, when young people do buy new, they do head most to the subcompact and compact segments. But considering how many older people buy the things too, it seems a bit weird to me somehow, that the marketing of these vehicles is so heavily skewed to the younger, beach volleyball set. But at least it conforms to an old auto industry maxim — you can sell a young person's car to an older person, but can't sell an older person's car to a younger person.

Vernile notes that Hyundai is particularly interested in the young buyer.

"Our loyalty rate, at 52 per cent, is among the highest in the industry. Once we get 'share of driveway' we tend to hang on to our customers, as they move through their life stages."

Another factor in this discussion, of course, is that this current crop of young people is just not as interested in getting behind the wheel as previous generations. We talked about this cultural shift before.

I still don't get it, but if middle age has taught me anything, it's that the list of things I don't get is infinite and expanding — so no sense in getting hung up on every little mystery that comes along.

Hyundai Veloster is targeted at Generation Y, but older drivers like it too. With more older buyers ready, willing and able to drive the vehicle home, they've pushed the medium age of the Veloster buyer in Canada to 46. CONTRIBUTED

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Someone you work with will try to sabotage your efforts today. They won't succeed, but it might be an idea to ask yourself why they are being so mean. Most likely they are jealous of your popularity.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Before a disagreement of some sort gets out of hand, try standing back and seeing things from the other person's point of view. Maybe you are being a bit too harsh. Maybe they need encouragement.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Take care not to be wasteful over the next few days. No matter how much you think you need something and no matter how much of a bargain you believe it is, wait before reaching for your wallet.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may be rather emotional today but nothing bad will come of it. The important thing is that you don't allow yourself to overreact. Whatever your current problem may be, it's not the end of the world.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may not want to force a friend or loved one to do something against their will but you have no choice. The fact is you are going to have to crack the whip – it's the only way to get them moving.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Different people have different personalities and because of that tend to look at the world in different ways. Bear that thought in mind when dealing with someone who, to your way of thinking, seems a bit stupid.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone in a position of power will give you a hard time today but now that you are aware of that fact, you can take evasive action. Stay out of their way if you can — and, if you can't, refuse to be riled.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something that you committed to a few weeks ago no longer grabs you, mentally or emotionally, in the way it once did. Too Bad. You made a promise to other people, so you must see it through to completion.

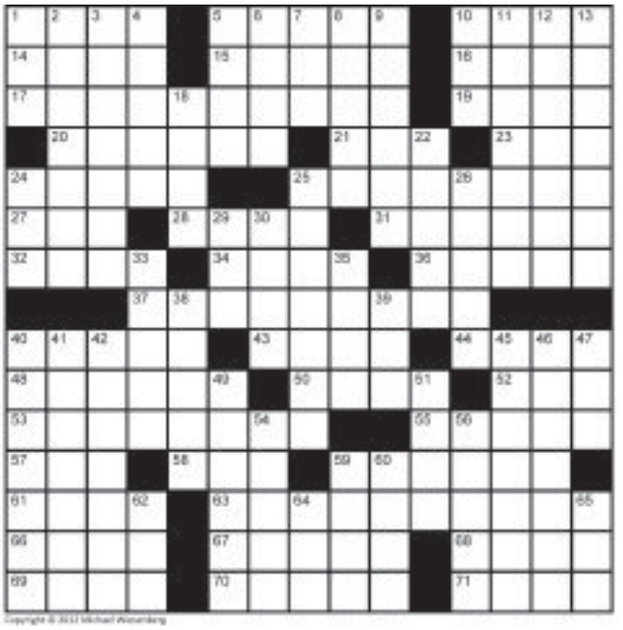
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Never, ever allow yourself to get emotional about money. The moment you break this cardinal rule is the moment you start asking for trouble. If you need to cut your losses then do so.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Someone you work or do business with is being annoyingly obstructive and things will come to a head over the next 24 hours. A parting of the ways may well be the only option left open to you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be lacking a sense of urgency at the moment, which is holding you back from starting something that could be good for you. Today's Mars-Saturn link will push you into action.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to go your own way and do your own thing but the planets warn you won't get far. Some things are better done in alliance with other people to spread the risk and share the joys of success. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: More Miscellany



Across
1. US government agent, for short
5. "___ in the hand is worth two ..." (2 wds.)
10. Barber's concern
14. Tiny bit
15. Breezy Hawaiian room
16. Throb
17. Prominent Prairie Provinces feature
19. False god or idol
20. Ottawa-born songstress Morisette
21. Here: Fr.
23. 506: Rom. numerals
24. String quartet member
25. Canadian lawmen
27. Special connections
28. "Monster" that's really a lizard
31. ___ of Georgia: Gulf Islands location
32. Predicament
34. Pig sound
36. Leases out
37. July 1 holiday (2 wds.)
40. Room under the roof
43. Pro ___: proportionately
44. Agreed-on guidelines: abbr.
48. Knucklehead
50. Crypt
52. Picante
53. East Coast's ___ Provinces
55. "___ having fun yet?" (2 wds.)
57. "How was ___ know?" (2 wds.)
58. Bigheadedness
59. Like some measures (metres and feet, say)
61. Baseball scores
63. One of 53-Across (2 wds.)
66. Artist born Romain de Tirtoff, from his French initials
67. Excluding, with "from"
68. Angers
69. Winter forecast
70. Rental contract
71. Not more

Down
1. Band's engagement
2. 8 miles from Lake Louise, this lake has same blue-green color and is named from the rockpile at one end
3. ___ for words: speechless (3 wds.)
4. Like some twangs
5. "___ Want for Christmas ..." (2 wds.)
6. Pasture sounds
7. B&B
8. AM/FM apparatus
9. Olympic saucer
10. Canadiens member, familiarly
11. Early French Canadian
12. Puzzle solver's exclamation (3 wds.)
13. Puts back on eBay
18. Cause of a delay
22. Prefix meaning "within" before "mural" or "venous"
24. High spirits
25. Landslide winner's claim
26. 3s in poker
29. Charged particle
30. Perjurer
33. Space opera genre (2 wds.)
35. Green Hornet's sidekick
38. Less than 90°
39. BC Hydro structure
40. Regards highly
41. How a roast is done (perfectly) (3 wds.)
42. Argonauts' home
45. IMAX ___
46. Gifts or cash put up by bride's father
47. Sault ___ Marie
49. Cell phone requirement
51. BMO, for one: Fr.
54. ___ Jaw, SK
56. Add more lubricant
59. Fellows
60. "Understood!" (2 wds.)
62. Attach a button
64. Canadian National Rail's passenger subsidiary that became a separate Crown corporation in 1978
65. Donkey

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Yesterday's crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

			8			7		
5		9		2			6	
8			6			9		
		7		1	8			3
	2						1	
3			9	6		8		
		1			3			4
	9			7		5		2
		5			4			

Yesterday's Sudoku

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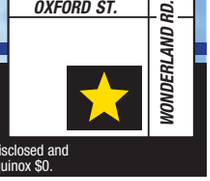

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